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AUSTIN . . . The April 1, 2007, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 6.5 million boxes for the 2006-2007 season, up 25 percent from last year's 5.2 million boxes. This forecast is unchanged from January.

All orange production is estimated at 1.85 million boxes, up 16 percent from last year. The orange forecast is down 7 percent from January. Early and midseason oranges account for 1.58 million boxes and Valencias for 270,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.6 million boxes last season.

Heavy rain in September delayed the start of the Texas citrus season. Grapefruit shipments were up 22 percent, although exports were down 75 percent and harvest was at 87 percent complete. Navel orange shipments are also up 17 percent from last year and nearly 100 percent harvested. Valencia shipments are also slightly ahead of last year, but nearly 35 percent of the crop remains compared to only 13 percent at this time last year.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 39.4 million boxes, up 29 percent from last year. All orange production is forecast at 169.9 million boxes, down 19 percent from last year.